

Members

Sen. Kent Adams, Chairperson
Sen. Beverly Gard
Sen. Nancy Dembowski
Sen. Larry Lutz
Rep. Win Moses
Rep. Matt Pierce
Rep. Timothy Neese
Rep. Jeff Thompson



RECYCLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 2-5-21-11

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 21, 2003
Meeting Time: 10 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 130
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Sen. Kent Adams, Chairperson; Sen. Beverly Gard; Sen. Nancy Dembowski; Sen. Larry Lutz; Rep. Win Moses; Rep. Matt Pierce; Rep. Timothy Neese; Rep. Jeff Thompson.

Members Absent: None.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Kent Adams called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The first item on the agenda was a correction of the September 25, 2003, minutes. Chairman Adams stated that Representative Richard Mangus did not indicate the location of the incident involving collection of recyclables as reported in the minutes. Reference to the St. Joseph Solid Waste Management District was incorrect. He asked for the Committee's consent to remove the language from the minutes, and the Committee consented to the change.

Chairman Adams reminded the Committee that they do not have to make recommendations or carry legislation but that members can carry legislation on their own. He also stated that they can make general recommendations and send them to the Environmental Quality Service Council (EQSC). He noted the Committee will send a report to the EQSC, which will be meeting on Oct. 29, and the EQSC can expand the discussion.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Upon Chairman Adam's request, Karen Firestone, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Services Agency (LSA), explained that the Committee will expire December 31, 2005, unless a resolution is passed by the Legislative Council to expire the Committee. Prior to the Legislative Council meeting to appoint committees after the regular session, the current chair will be contacted to determine if the committee wants to meet for another interim. The leadership of the Committee will rotate to the House next interim. However, a resolution may be drafted to expire the Committee, if the committee indicates that it will not meet in the next interim.

Topics for Committee Recommendations

A. Recodification

Chairman Adams indicated that recodification may be necessary for some of the Indiana statute ruled in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Chairman Adams asked the Committee's consent to review current Indiana statute with regards to recycling and the elimination of statutes in conflict. The Committee consented to Senator Adam's request.

B. Electronic Waste

Chairman Adams asked the Committee to discuss electronic waste (e-waste). Representative Jeff Thompson indicated that the sheer volume of electronic waste is becoming a problem, and with changing technology there should be encouragement of recycling of these materials. Senator Nancy Dembowski stated that the problem will only get worse and needs to be examined. Representative Timothy Neese stated that the Elkhart County Solid Waste Management District has come a long way in the collection of electronic waste, and they combine the collection of electronic waste with hazardous waste. Senator Beverly Gard suggested spending time developing a definition of electronic waste.

Chairman Adams recognized Ms. Lisa Disbrow, Waste Management, to testify on the issue. She stated that electronic waste is less than 1% of overall waste. In general, household electronic waste is not considered hazardous waste, but that once it is segregated from other waste it may be classified as hazardous waste. She indicated that it becomes an issue for hauling companies because there is not enough to collect at curbside. She stated that, overall, it is not a problem waste, but they are looking into it as a service they can provide to their customers.

Chairman Adams recognized Mr. Lance Hodge, Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts (AISWMD), to speak on the issue. He noted that the problem ranges from monitors to television sets and computer towers.

Chairman Adams recognized Mr. Terry Duffy, Indiana Recycling Coalition, to testify. He stated that e-waste has broad definitions that range from computers to anything that is plugged into an outlet. He stated that there is a need to think about stereos, cell phones, and computers. He also noted that the Indiana Recycling Coalition is currently examining e-waste issues and will be meeting in November to make recommendations.

Senator Gard suggested working with the Indiana Recycling Coalition to find a workable solution to the problem.

C. Marion County

Chairman Adams stated that funding is always a concern for this issue. Sen. Gard suggested working with the Marion County legislative delegation. Chairman Adams

indicated that they will look to Marian Dante, City of Indianapolis, for more information regarding this issue.

D. Recycling Financing and Bottle Deposits

Ms. Firestone passed out and explained handouts regarding Ohio's Business Franchise Tax (Exhibit 1) and Michigan's Bottle Bill (Exhibit 2) as alternative methods of funding recycling programs in Indiana.

Chairman Adams recognized Nelson Becker, National Solid Waste Management Association, to speak concerning a bottle deposit law in Indiana. Mr. Becker stated that bottle bills have been considered by the Indiana General Assembly, but have not passed because of the problems collection presents retailers, as well as other logistical problems.

E. Measurements

Chairman Adams recognized Mr. Hodge to speak. Mr. Hodge noted that recycling has been very positive in his community, although there is a lack of faith that it is actually being recycled. He stated that there are problems with recycling and contamination, and education of the homeowners should be used to address these issues.

Chairman Adams recognized Jeff Langbehn, Lake County Solid Waste Management District, to speak on the issue. He indicated that sometimes what is accepted at the curb is a moving target and can change from month to month, and there is a need to keep consumers aware of what is acceptable. He stated that the changes are due to market conditions.

Chairman Adams recognized Anthony Burrus, Allen County Department of Safety and Environmental Affairs, to speak. Mr. Burrus stated that a mixture of drop and curbside is costly, despite the high participation rate.

F. Solid Waste District Reserves

Senator Gard indicated that she would like to add the topic of districts with big reserves to the list of Committee recommendations. She noted that some of the districts have very large reserves, some in excess of \$6 million. Mr. Burrus noted that operating reserves should not exceed one and a half times the operating budget. Mr. Hodge indicated that one of the districts with a large reserve had recently spent \$9 million to open a new education facility, thereby using up the reserves.

Meeting in the Next Interim

Chairman Adams asked for comments from the Committee regarding if there is merit in continuing the study committee.

Sen. Gard responded that there is value in continuing for one more year, and they need more information before they can propose solutions. The Committee agreed that another year would allow opportunity to address the issues more fully.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.